The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accurate and editorial interpretation of matters affecting labor concerning the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and includes much information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1285 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1935 — FRANK MORRISON, Secretary — VOL. 25, NO. 48

Liberty sustains the same relation to all our virtues that the sun does to life.—Robert G. Ingersoll.

EDITORIAL

Welfare Clauses Before Supreme Court

The brief defending the constitutionality of the Agricultural Adjustment Act filed with the United States Supreme Court by Attorney General Cummings and eight other Government lawyers plants the Act squarely on the general welfare clauses of the Federal Constitution. This action places the power of Congress to enact legislation designed to benefit the masses definitely before the Nation's high judicial authority and calls for a positive and plain interpretation.

The business and professional men who wrote the Constitution in 1787 mentioned the general welfare in two places. The Preamble reads:

> **"We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."**

The second provision relative to the general welfare is in paragraph 1 of section 8, regarding the powers of Congress, which reads:

> **"1. The Congress shall have power**
>
> **"To lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises, to pay the debts and PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE AND GENERAL WELFARE of the United States; but all duties, imposts, and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."**

The Government's brief brings into the limelight again the significant statement, frequently made, that the Constitution is what the Supreme Court justices say it is. In view of the fact that Supreme Court opinions are determined by a majority vote, it would be more correct to say that the Constitution is what some of the Supreme Court justices say it is, for very rarely do all of the members of the Court agree on the rights of the masses under our Constitution.

This point is stressed in that portion of the Government AAA brief which contends that the Supreme Court should interpret broadly the general welfare clauses of the Constitution. "The adoption at this late day of the narrower construction," the brief says, "would result in grave dislocations and would measurably retard the advancement of public education, the sciences and social welfare."

The importance which the Government places on a "broad" interpretation of the general welfare clauses emphasizes what students of the Constitution have long insisted, though not frequently expressed, namely, the rights of the people under the Constitution are not determined by the letter of the Constitution itself but by the ideas which judges personally hold relative to the great question of the fundamental rights which the American people are entitled to enjoy.

In the Agricultural Adjustment Act, the question before the Supreme Court is legislation to raise the economic condition of the farmers from a very depressing and socially destructive level to a higher level by means of the so-called processing taxes, which require the first processor of certain farm products to pay to the Government a tax which goes into the Federal Treasury. Then, out of the general fund in the Treasury the Government pays certain benefits to certain groups of farmers under certain conditions.

A broad interpretation by the Supreme Court of the power of Congress under the general welfare clauses of the Constitution will mean that Congress has the power to "promote" the welfare and "provide" for the welfare of the farmers in the field of increasing the prices of farm products to a level held necessary for decent living standards. A narrow interpretation of the general welfare clauses will mean that Congress does not have this power to improve the economic conditions of the farmers.

The Supreme Court consists of nine members. In this case five out of the nine may determine the meaning of these clauses of the Constitution expressed in terms of the public welfare.

It is to be hoped that the opinion rendered will reaffirm the principle that the Government of the United States is a Government of, by and for the people.

Millions Are Still Jobless, Green Says

Gain of 969,000 in Jobs Since October, 1934, Makes Only Small Dent in Unemployed Army, A. F. of L. Head Declares—Over 3,000,000 Cases, Including 14,000,000 Persons, Were Supported by the Government in September.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Although the improvement in business conditions since October, 1934, has furnished re-employment for 969,000 workers, the multitude of working men and women who have been permanently locked out by those who own and control industry is so stupendous that the few who have been given jobs hardly make a visible dent in the out-of-work army, numbering many millions, according to the current report on unemployment by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor.

"As industry is the source which supports a month ago," Mr. Green said, "industrial employment continued to gain in October, 969,000 more persons now confirm the trade union report, showing that in the United States as a whole approximately 30 per cent back to work in industry in October. This compares with a gain of 403,000 in September and shows the number employed in industry almost a million above last year. Employment in October, 1935, exceeded October, 1934, by 969,000.

"These employment gains are the largest since the Recovery Program. Although gains of September and October this year do not equal those made under NRA, they do indicate that, after staying relatively at a dead level for a year, employment is at last turning upward. Gains thus far, however, are too small to make any significant impression in reducing the army of unemployed.

Employment Gains by Industries

"Trade union reports for November indicate that this fall's employment gain is slackening. Records covering 975,000 members in 24 cities show a very much smaller decline in unemployment in November than in October. Our weighted figures show the following per cent of the membership unemployed: August, 18.4; September, 17.9; October, 17.2; November, 16.6.

"Closer analysis of Government figures for October and trade union reports for October and November by other industries which are now furnishing jobs to the unemployed are: durable goods, manufacturing and construction, Federal Government.

"The largest gain has been in the durable goods manufacturing industries(chiefly metal manufacturing), where more than 500,000 have gone back to work since the end of 1933. In nondurable goods, such as food and clothing, 57,000 have found jobs. Employment in durable goods is still below 1929 by 1,250,000, however; nondurable goods by 400,000.

Wholesale and Retail Trade

"Wholesale and retail trade in the last month have added 88,000 to their payrolls and we may expect them to furnish more jobs in November and December, since stores are looking forward to a busy Christmas season this year.

Many Jobless Building Workers

"In building, trade union figures show a gain in employment in November for the first time in the history of reports. This would indicate that the building program has made enough headway to counteract the usual seasonal trend.

"Gains thus far, however, are too small to make an impression on the very serious unemployment in the building trades. Only last year 40,000 have gone back to work, but nearly two-thirds of all building workers remain unemployed and still without jobs, except as provided by PWA and the emergency program. The Federal Government has added 97,000 to its staff of workers in the past year, in addition to those on relief jobs.

Millions Supported by the Government

"These small employment gains have made little reduction in the millions dependent on the Government for their existence. In September, FERA reports 3,254,000 cases, including over 14,000,000 persons. By November 16, 2,367,000 had been transferred to Works Projects, but jobs have by no means been found for all of those who were taken off the relief rolls, approaching, this is no time for the Federal Government to cut off relief."

SHARECROPPERS NOT HELPED BY THE AAA

Federal Relief Report Says Landlords Take Government Benefits From Tenants For Debt—Property Owners Want Croppers Kept Subordinate, and Therefore Oppose Aid.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—A study made by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration of the plight of tenants and sharecroppers in Alabama shows that in a large percentage of cases AAA benefit payments intended for these people go instead to the landlords, who in many instances force sharecroppers to turn over the payment that is supposedly theirs under the crop production program sponsored by the Government.

The FERA study was prepared by Harold Hoffsommer, professor of sociology at Alabama Polytechnic Institute and supervisor of rural research in Alabama for the FERA. It gives support to recent statements of economists who have claimed that tenants and sharecroppers in the South are in a condition very similar to slavery and that the cotton tenancy plan was in actuality a system of serfdom. The survey, which was based upon interviews with farm families in 19 typical rural families in Alabama, declares it is practically impossible for the sharecroppers to get out of their dependent position and rise in the social scale.

Landlords Get Tenants' Benefits

In discussing the very small AAA benefits which tenants and sharecroppers, who are constantly in debt to their landlords, are able to keep for themselves, the report states:

"As a result of this general pattern of debt relationships, governmental assistance has been of little help to the tenants in a majority of instances.

"Only approximately 60 per cent of the households which receive such assistance it was found that all of the money received had been immediately spent or pay debts and that the landlord was the chief creditor. In approximately 40 per cent of the cropper households receiving such assistance a part or all of it was immediately paid to the landlord and in roughly one-third of these cases the relief family claimed that the payment had been forced.

"The extreme in this matter was reached among the Negro cropper households, more than 86 per cent of whom reported paying a part or all of their governmental money to the landlord and in nearly one-half of all the instances claim that the payment was forced."

"Demoralizing" Effect of Relief

On the subject of Federal relief for tenants and sharecroppers, the report states:

"Although no data are available on the subject, it is fairly certain that a considerable number of unscrupulous landlords are using relief as a means of furnishing their tenants with goods which could and should have been furnished by themselves.

"On the other hand, nearly 40 per cent of the landlords who had tenants in the above groups expressed a need for aid for their tenants on the ground of its demoralizing effects upon them.

"It therefore seems that much of the fear of this demoralizing influence on the tenant restrains many of the landlords from deliberately taking advantage of the government in this way.

"Among the landlords who had no tenants on relief, more than 70 per cent stated that they objected to relief because of its demoralizing influences on the tenants.

"Tenant demoralization from relief had either one or both of two meanings to the landlord. In the first place, it might have been a fear that the tenant would escape from under his influence. It is probable not too much to say that cropper peonage can only be maintained by the subordination of the tenant group.

"If the cropper were to become self-directing and take over his own affairs, the system would necessarily change. Hence everything that disrupts dependence is demoralizing.

"In the second place, the landlords were influenced by the belief that when members of any group are given privileges to which they are unaccustomed, they are likely in their inexperience to abuse them for a time."

Sharecroppers Are Increasing

In most states of the South the number of tenants and sharecroppers has increased during the last five years, according to statistics of the 1934 farm census now being released by the Census Bureau. The statistics are available for all of the Southern states except Texas, Mississippi and Arkansas. In Tennessee, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Louisiana, Georgia, Kentucky, Florida, Alabama and Virginia there were 1,132,307 tenant farmers in 1934 composed of around 5,893,196 individuals. Of this number, 414,295 were sharecroppers composed of around 2,143,923 individuals.

All Southern states for which census statistics have been completed show a gradual rise in tenancy and sharecropping with the exception of Georgia and Oklahoma. In Georgia the number of tenants declined from 174,398 families in 1930 to 164,331 in 1935 and the number of sharecroppers was reduced from 100,854 to 80,425.

A. F. of L. Survey Hits Profit Motive

Business Review Says Operating Industry Primarily to Secure Higher Living Standards for Masses Would Easily Provide An Annual Income of $4,370 For Every Family.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—A criticism of the profit motive as the major incentive to industry instead of larger real purchasing power and better standards of living for the masses, features the current issue of the Monthly Survey of Business published by the American Federation of Labor.

"To prove that as business recovers the profit motive is intensified, the Survey uses the record of 1,500 corporations which in 1933 appropriated more than one-half of the entire profits made by all of the 447,000 corporations in the United States.

Inequitable Distribution of Earnings

In 1933 the profits of these 1,500 corporations were $1,314,000,000. In 1934 the profits were increased to $1,732,000,000. For 1935 competent financial opinion estimates that the profits will total $2,340,000,000. These figures show an increase in profits of the 1,500 corporations of 78 per cent in two years.

In emphasizing the present inequitable distribution of earnings in industry dominated exclusively by the profit motive, the Survey declares that "wages today are not keeping pace with production," and statistically buttresses this conclusion with the assertion that "in the first three-quarters of 1935 production has exceeded last year by 8.7 per cent, but the buying power by less than 1 per cent."

Profit Greed Keeps Factories Closed

Pointing out that although millions of workers are jobless there is a shortage of 5,000,000 homes, 9,000,000 automobiles and similar needs in other lines, the Survey declares it is the policy of those who control industry to keep their plants closed or working on part time until "business can make a profit" by supplying the people with these necessary elements, adding:

"Profit, not our needs is the controlling factor."

Jobs for All, Poverty for None

Turning to the possibilities in terms of economic welfare of shifting the major purpose of industry from maximum profit to higher living standards for the masses, the Survey says:

"The recent study by competent engineers shows that in America today no one need be unemployed or in poverty. Proper use of our industrial resources, equipment and man power, can produce for the lowest income family an income of at least $4,370 a year.

"This means that it is possible for every family to have an comfortable home, plenty of food, clothing and other necessities, an automobile and radio, opportunities for education and culture, adequate medical care and provision for old age. The necessary knowledge and techniques, plenty is within our grasp, not for the favored few but for every man, woman and child in America.

"In the world of today, it is sheer stupidity for the overwhelming mass of men and women to idleness, poverty and dependence, when our industrial plant at half capacity and plowing under the cotton we need for clothes.

Workers' Living Standards Kept Low

"We know that when industry operates without control, depression must follow prosperity as surely as night follows day. Periods of prosperity bring large fortunes for the few but never has any period of prosperity lifted the standards for the masses to the levels modern industry makes possible. In our year of greatest prosperity, one-sixth of our population were living below the minimum necessary for health, while all might have had a comfort living standard.

"Under proper control, our industries could supply a steady stream of goods year after year sufficient for our needs. Our factories could grow in size and progressively, in proportion with improving industrial techniques. We need not throw millions out of work every few years to create a shortage of goods so as to create jobs.

Social Planning Necessary

"The American people are beginning to realize that if we would shift from control to make profits over to control to make higher standards of living we must have a democratic system of planning. Any satisfactory measures for control of human welfare must grow out of the thorough study and need of business and labor leaders and of those who know industry, agriculture, and know how to make them serve our needs.

"Regimentation abroad has swept nations into Fascism. If we want to avoid a similar fate in this country, we must be ready before the next depression is upon us."

NOISE DEAFNESS INCREASES

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The use of industry by mechanically equipped traffic and industry is increasing the number of deaf, Dr. Leo Kanner of Johnson City, Tenn., told the Southern Medical Association's recent convention in St. Louis, Mo., which was attended by 3,965 physicians, their wives and medical students.

"Noise deafness," he said, "begins in early adult life and may progress to severe degrees before the victim is aware. Injury to the hearing is due to the fatigue of the hearing nerve endings which receive the vibration and shock of discordant noises.

"Riveting, boiler making, riveting and similar industries are subjected to high pitch noise five to ten billion times per year, the independents for the remainder of their supply. This is mixed with their own gasoline, branded and sold under their trade name.

"The consumer should be wary of paying any financial differential in price because the pump has a familiar trade mark blazoned conspicuously on it."

MILLION RAILWAY EMPLOYES

The number of railroad employes in the United States has decreased from 2,000,000 to approximately 1,000,000 in the last 15 years.

Green Warns Industrial Organization Committee That Their Plan May Have "Grave Consequences" for A. F. of L.

President of American Federation of Labor Says Annual Conventions Decide Organization Policy—Fears Cleavage In Labor Solidarity From Formation of Separate Group Within the Federation.

"My Conscience and My Judgment Lead Me to Advise Against It and Emphasize Most Vigorously the Danger Of Division and of Discord Which May Follow," He Declares.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Editor's Note.—On October 16, 1935, the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor in Atlantic City by a vote of 18,024 to 10,933, rejected a proposal favoring industrial unionism as the organization policy of the American Federation of Labor and reaffirmed its adherence to the principle of craft unionism. On November 9, a statement was issued in Washington, D. C., announcing the formation of a "Committee on Industrial Organization" composed of the presidents of the following unions: United Mine Workers of America, International Typographical Union, Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, United Textile Workers of America, Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers of America; United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers' International Union; International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers. The statement of the objects of the committee is in accordance with the principles and policies enunciated by those organizations at the Atlantic City convention of the American Federation of Labor." On November 25, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, made public a letter which he sent on November 23 to the officials of the organizations which formed the "Committee on Industrial Organization." The text of Mr. Green's letter follows:

"I learned through press reports recently of the formation of an organization called the 'Committee for Industrial Organization.' It was stated therein that representatives of your organization participated in the conference when such organization was formed and that the committee which you represent is to be a component part of it.

"Officers of national and international unions would undoubtedly view with feelings of apprehension and deep concern any attempt on the part of a group of local unions to organize within the organization they represent a movement for the avowed purpose of promoting the acceptance or rejection of a principle or policy which has been considered and decided upon at a convention representative of all the members of said national or international union.

Fears Development of Cleavage

"Such efforts would create within national and international unions, as well as within the American Federation of Labor, serious internal movements formed within the main organization structure as dual in character and as decidedly menacing to its success and welfare. When organizations within organizations are formed for the achievement and realization of some declared purpose, there is one sure prophesy or predict where such a movement will lead. It could and may be given credit for its intelligence.

"Experience has shown that organizations like those referred to create confusion and fraught with serious consequences. A line of cleavage between craft and industrial unionists in a body may be created and the breach between them may be widened. I sincerely believe in different forms of organization could be definitely widened. Bitterness and strife would inevitably follow.

Conventions Decide Policy

"It has been the fixed rule, both within the American Federation of Labor and national and international unions affiliated with it to decide upon organization policies by a majority vote at legally convened conventions.

"The widest opportunity must be accorded the officers and delegates who participate in these conventions to present their point of view, to deliberate profoundly and to decide judiciously grave and important questions of organization and administrative policies.

"When a decision has thus been rendered it becomes the duty of the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor to comply with it and they should be encouraged to do that from the interference and opposition of those who have constituted minorities.

"Those who disagree with the action of the majority are accorded the right to seek a movement to change their point of view at succeeding conventions.

"It seems it my official duty, as president of the American Federation of Labor, to express my feelings of appreciation of the sincerity and honesty which might follow from the formation of an organization within the American Federation of Labor even though it might be claimed that said organization is formed for the achievement of a laudable purpose.

"In my conscience and my judgment lead me to advise against it and emphasize most vigorously the danger of division and of discord which may follow.

"My loyalty and devotion to the principles and ideals of the American Federation of Labor inspire me to transmit this communication to you and to you to accept it in the fraternal spirit in which it is sent."

CO-OPERATIVE SYSTEM AIDS SWEDISH MASSES

Mrs. Branting Says Half the Population Now Purchase Goods Without The Services of Middlemen — Only One Per Cent of the Workers Are Unemployed.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Mrs. Sonja Branting, daughter of the late Hjalmar Branting, three times Premier of Sweden, is an enthusiastic advocate of producers' and consumers' cooperatives as an important element in reducing the cost of living for the masses and securing quality goods.

In an interview with the Co-Operative League of America, Mrs. Branting, who is visiting the United States, discussed the cooperative movement in Sweden.

"Too many people," she said, "were living on the spread between production and distribution. This made it impossible for the people to buy the goods they had produced, so consumers' cooperatives were started and the movement swept away. The co-operatives are manufacturing electric lamps have broken the lamp monopoly and have reduced the price of lamps throughout Sweden.

Quality Up, Prices Down

"Co-operative production of shoes and galoshes forced prices down to within the reach of the working people. Now the co-operatives produce the highest quality and a large percentage of the shoes in the country."

Then the co-operatives have played in modern architecture, combining the use of hygienic methods with the most up-to-date use of modern materials, was emphasized by Mrs. Branting.

"Consumers' co-operatives," she asserted, "pioneered in the introduction of hygienic homes. The co-operative architectural bureau has played an important part in developing Swedish architecture. Hygienic, sanitary stores, displays under glass, artistic arrangement of fixtures and merchandise have been developed by the co-operatives, which now include half the people in the country."

New Economic Order Visioned

Mrs. Branting, who is a member of the Board of Directors of the Swedish Relations Court of Sweden, in explaining the reasons for Sweden's prosperity declared that democratic action through political, labor and co-operative organization is now trying to build up a new economic order without revolution."

Pointing out that Sweden has a remarkably liberal form of parliamentary government she declared that as a result of the use of political and economic freedom Sweden today has less than 1 per cent of its workers unemployed, has balanced its budget and is probably further advanced on the road to recovery than any other nation.

Mrs. Branting left her work in Sweden to lecture in the United States in behalf of the German political refugees persecuted under the Nazi regime.

TRADE NAME GASOLINE EXPOSED IN NRA REPORT

Report by NRA Consumers' Unit Says High-Test Fuel Is Waste of Consumers' Money.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Automobile users are quite generally gypped in the purchase of gasoline sold under alluring trade names, according to the second issue of the bulletin entitled "The Consumer," issued by the NRA Consumers' Division.

In describing the process by which consumers are mulcted by trade names, the bulletin comments: The report said:

"The tendency in the market, of course, is to push sales as far as possible to the higher octane gasolines because of higher profits."

Money Is Wasted

"The consumer is informed that nothing is too good for his car and that he would be foolish to treat it well, he should give it the highest octane gasoline.

"The cost of this ratio is simply to waste his money. Since the ordinary automobile engine is constructed for a medium or low octane gasoline it is unreceptive to the higher octane for which the consumer pays a differential.

"Of outstanding importance in the purchase of gasoline is the quality of crude petroleum varies greatly from field to field, gasoline itself, when it comes from the refinery, is fairly uniform in quality.

"Despite, in the attempt to save transportation costs, there is a rather general swapping of gasolines by the various companies behind the scenes and the trade name under which gasoline is marketed gives an apparent uniformity to a real chaos of source.

Trade Mark Quality Discounted

"Moreover, since the major companies control supply about 85 per cent of their needs, they are dependent upon the various assortments of gasoline sold by the independents for the remainder of their supply. This is mixed with their own gasoline, branded and sold under their trade name.

"The consumer should be wary of paying any financial differential in price because the pump has a familiar trade mark blazoned conspicuously on it."

CORRECTION

The American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service for November 23, 1935, contained an article entitled: "Atlanta A. & P. Stores Remodeled by Union Men." The head should read: "Augusta A. & P. Stores Remodeled by Union Men." In the text of the article the word "Augusta" should be substituted for the word "Atlanta."

Fifty PWA Slum Clearance Projects In 35 Cities Are Ahead of Schedule

$129,000,000 Allocated for Low-Cost Housing-All Difficulties Being Overcome As Work Goes Forward—Jobs Will Be Provided for 110,000—Light Construction Also Increases.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Instead of the deadline of January 1, as originally set, it is stated at PWA headquarters here, that all of the 50 slum clearance projects, in 35 cities, will get under way by December 15, at least two weeks ahead of schedule.

All necessary land has been put under option and the program is already financed by $100,000,000 of work relief funds, added to the original PWA appropriation of $29,000,000.

Can't Collect Rents

The only stumbling block to develop recently was a ruling of Comptroller General McCarl that the PWA could not collect rents directly, under the present law, which will have to be paid into the general treasury. However, A. H. Clark, chief of the PWA Housing Division, is reported to have forseen this contingency and set aside funds from original project allotments for at least one year's Federal management. Congress is expected, in the interim, to appropriate the funds collected from rents and collect them for reimbursement of management and for amortization purposes.

Many to Be Employed

It has been made clear that, wherever possible, legally constituted local authorities will manage projects. New York is one an example.

About 50,000 persons will be employed on site construction for one year commender the program and about 60,000 more will get jobs indirectly supplying materials, Mr. Claus said.

Out of a "slum" dollar, he remarked, 32.3 cents would be spent for direct labor and 67.7 cents for materials and the rest going for management and other purposes. He asserted that the usual building cost of only 19 cents for labor and 40 cents for materials had been shattered by PWA.

Works Program Progressing

It is stated at Works Progress Administration headquarters here that the light construction program has been progressing rapidly. It is unofficially estimated that Jobs are being provided at the rate of about 75,000 a day.

It is understood that only a comparatively small amount of money will be set aside for the suburban "green belt" projects being undertaken by the Resettlement Administration, in charge of Rexford G. Tugwell, the bulk of available PWA funds going to city areas, where the need is said to be greater and suitable land is easier to acquire.

A list of projects and estimated expenditures of $2,930,386,397 has been formally approved. Of this, Comptroller General McCarl has made cash available for projects selected from the approved list amounting to $1,031,161,382.

Whether Works Progress officials intend to urge President Roosevelt for additional money from the $4,000,000 Works Relief Fund for housing purposes could not be ascertained. However, it is generally conceded that the housing division has made commender the program and about 60,000 more

1,804 Federal Labor Unions Organized By AFL in Two Years, Green States

538 of Them Were Established in Mass Production Industries

By A. F. of L. News Service.

A strong defense of the organization achievements in the mass production industries of the American Federation of Labor during the past two years was made by William Green, president of the Federation, at a press conference held in connection with his letter to the executive of six national and international unions, affiliated with the A. F. of L., protesting against their organization of the "Committee on Industrial Organization" to combat the declared policy of the Federation on organization policy adopted by the 1935 A. F. of L. convention.

Mr. Green pointed out that during the past two years the A. F. of L. has created 1,804 federal labor unions, 538 of which were established in mass production industries. Of these 1,204 are in the automobile industry, 133 in the timber and lumber industry, 17 in the aluminum industry, 12 in the radio industry, 27 in the cement industry, 11 in the gas and by-product coke industry, 66 in the gasoline station industry, and 69 in the rubber industry. In addition national unions have been established in the automobile and rubber industries

He declared the American Federation of Labor recognizes in its organization policy that in many industries employing thousands of workers a new condition exists requiring organization upon a different basis to be most effective, and that this new condition had received consideration in connection with protecting the jurisdictional rights of craft trade unions organized upon craft lines.

He cited the important achievements of the railroad labor unions from the unanimity with which the different craft unions in the railroad industry have pooled their forces in organizing action and effective results can be realized under one union.

In commenting on his opposition to the separate movement within the American Federation of Labor sponsored by the executives of six national unions in their "Committee on Industrial Organization," Mr. Green said he feared it would have a disruptive effect. "All I want to do," he declared, "is to maintain solidarity and warn of its dangers."

MEXICAN WORKERS WANT BAN ON FASCIST SILK

Mexico City.—The Confederation of Workers and Peasants, Mexico's largest labor organization, has requested the Finance Ministry to forbid all imports of Italian silk and artificial silk in the form of clothes or garments.

Confederation officials express belief that this action will strengthen sanctions which the Mexican government has approved, as in the case of many other nations, in protest of Mussolini's Ethiopian aggression and Fascist wrecking of labor unions in Italy. The confederation contends that an ample supply for all requirements of Mexico for silk and artificial silk is available from Japan and the United States.

JOB INSURANCE RECORDS OPPOSED BY EMPLOYERS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Albany, N. Y.—Information in the hands of the State Advisory Council for Unemployment Insurance reveals widespread opposition by organizations of employers to furnishing a detailed employment report upon each employe for use in the event of the administration of the State Unemployment Insurance Act, according to a recent session of the Legislature. It is estimated assembling the information will require approximately three million records.

It is believed, however, that the work and expense involved in compiling the records are not the major concern of the employer groups. What they really fear is that the records, including the exact compensation of each employe, may fall into the hands of trade union officials and be used as the basis for intense organization drives.

The law prohibits the disclosure of the data to private individuals or groups. Nevertheless, the anti-union employers say they wish to avoid the possibility of "leaks."

LEWIS RESIGNS OFFICE OF AFL VICE PRESIDENT

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—On November 25, John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, resigned as eleventh vice president of the American Federation of Labor to which office he was elected by the recent annual convention of the Federation.

His resignation, which includes withdrawal from the Federation's Executive Council, was contained in the following communication to William Green, president of the A. F. of L.:

"Dear Sir and Brother:

"Effective this date, I resign as vice president of the American Federation of Labor.

"Yours truly,

"JOHN L. LEWIS."

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP ADOPTED

Paris, Tenn. (AFLNS).—Following a referendum favoring a $300,000 bond issue for a publicly owned distribution system, Paris city officials took steps to finalize a contract for electric power with the Tennessee Valley Authority.